NUMB. CXXIX

The SPECTATOR.

Vertentem ſeſe fruſtra ſectabere canthum
Cum rota poſterior curras & in axe ſecundo. Perſ.

Saturday, July 28. 1711.

GREAT Maſters in Painting never care for drawing People in the Faſhion, as very well knowing that the Head-dreſs, or Periwig, that now prevails, and gives a Grace to their Portraitures at preſent, will make a very odd Figure, and perhaps look monſtrous, in the Eyes of Poſterity. For this Reaſon they often repreſent an illuſtrious Perſon in a *Roman* Habit, or in ſome other Dreſs that never varies. I could wiſh, for the ſake of my Country Friends, that there was ſuch a kind of *everlaſting Drapery* to be made uſe of by all who live at a certain diſtance from the Town, and that they would agree upon ſuch Faſhions as ſhould never be liable to Changes and Innovations. For want of this *Standing Dreſs*, a Man that takes a Journey into the Country is as much ſurpriſed, as one that walks in a Gallery of old Family-Pictures, and finds as great a Variety of Garbs and Habits in the Perſons he Converſes with. Did they keep to one conſtant Dreſs they would ſometimes be in the Faſhion, which they never are, as Matters are managed at preſent. If inſtead of running after the Mode they would continue fix'd in one certain Habit, the Mode would ſome time or other overtake them, as a Clock that ſtands ſtill is ſure to point right once in twelve Hours. In this Caſe therefore I would adviſe them, as a Gentleman did his Friend who was hunting about the whole Town after a rambling Fellow, If you follow him you will never find him, but if you plant your ſelf at the Corner of any one Street, I'll engage it will not be long before you ſee him.

I have already touched upon this Subject, in a Speculation that ſhows how cruelly the Country are led aſtray in following the Town; and equipped in a ridiculous Habit, when they fancy themſelves in the height of the Mode. Since that Speculation, I have received a Letter which I there hinted at from a Gentleman who is now in the Weſtern Circuit.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

'BEING a Lawyer of the *Middle Temple*, and a *Corniſh* Man by Birth, I generally ride the 'Weſtern Circuit for my Health, and as I am not 'interrupted with Clients, have leaſure to make 'many Obſervations that eſcape the Notice of my 'Fellow-Travellers

'One of the moſt faſhionable Women I met 'with in all the Circuit was my Landlady at *Stains*, 'where I chanced to be on a Holiday. Her 'Commode was not half a Foot high, and her 'Petticoat within ſome Yards of a modiſh Circum-'ference. In the ſame Place I obſerved a young 'Fellow with a tollerable Periwig, had it not been 'covered with a Hat that was ſhaped in the *Ramillie* 'Cock. As I proceeded in my Journey I obſerved the 'Petticoat grew ſcantier and ſcantier, and about three-'ſcore Miles from *London* was ſo very unfaſhionable 'that a Woman might walk in it without any man-'ner of Inconvenience.

'Not far from *Salisbury* I took Notice of a Ju-'ſtice of Peace's Lady that was at leaſt ten Years 'behind hand in her Dreſs, but at the ſame time as 'fine as Hands could make her. She w s flounced 'and furbelowed from Head to Foot; every Ribbon 'was wrinkled, and every Part of her Garments in 'Curl, ſo that ſhe looked like one of thoſe Ani-'mals which in the Country we call a *Freeze-land* 'Hen.

'Not many Miles beyond this Place I was inform-'ed that one of the laſt Year's little Muffs had by 'ſome means or other ſtragled into thoſe Parts, and 'that all the Women of Faſhion were cutting their 'old Muffs in two, or retrenching them, according 'to the little Model that was got among them. I 'cannot believe the Report they have there. that it 'was ſent down Frankt by a Parliament-man in a 'little Packet; but probably by next Winter this

'Faſhion

Fashion will be at the height in the Country, when it is quite out at *London*.

'The greatest Beau at our next County Sessions was dressed in a most monstrous Flaxen Periwig, that was made in King *William*'s Reign. The Wearer of it goes, it seems, in his own Hair when he is at home, and lets his Wig lie in Buckle for a whole half Year, that he may put it on upon Occasion to meet the Judges in it.

'I must not here omit an Adventure that happened to us in a Country Church upon the Frontiers of *Cornwall*. As we were in the midst of the Service a Lady who is the chief Woman of the Place, and had passed the Winter at *London* with her Husband, entered the Congregation in a little Head-dress and a Hoop'd-Petticoat. The People, who were wonderfully startled at such a Sight, all of them rose up. Some stared at the prodigious Bottom, and some at the little Top of this strange Dress. In the mean time the Lady of the Manor filled the whole *Area* of the Church, and walked up to her Pew with an unspeakable Satisfaction, amidst the Whispers, Conjectures and Astonishments of the whole Congregation.

'Upon our way from hence we saw a young Fellow riding towards us full Gallop, with a Bob Wig and a black Silken Bag tied to it. He stopt short at the Coach, to ask us how far the Judges were behind us. His Stay was so very short that we had only time to observe his new Silk Waistcoat, that was unbuttoned in several Places to let us see that he had a clean Shirt on, which was ruffled down to his middle.

'From this Place, during our Progress through the most Western Parts of the Kingdom, we fancied our selves in King *Charles* the Second's Reign, the People having made very little Variations in their Dress since that time. The Smartest of the Country Squires appear still in the *Monmouth* Cock, and when they go a wooing (whether they have any Post in the Militia or not) they generally put on a red Coat. We were indeed very much surprized, at the Place we lay at last Night, to meet with a Gentleman that had accoutered himself in a Night-Cap Wig, a Coat with long Pockets and slit Sleeves, and a pair of Shoes with high Scollop Tops; but we soon found by his Conversation that he was a Person who laughed at the Ignorance and Rusticity of the Country People, and was resolved to live and die in the Mode.

'*Sir*, If you think this Account of my Travels may be of any Advantage to the Publick, I will next Year trouble you with such Occurences as I shall meet with in other Parts of *England*. For I am informed there are greater Curiosities in the Northern Circuit than in the Western; and that a Fashion makes its Progress much slower into *Cumberland* than into *Cornwall*. I have heard in particular, that the Stinkirk arrived but two Months ago at *Newcastle*, and that there are several Commodes in those Parts which are worth taking a Journey thither to see.

Compleat Setts of this Paper, for the Month of June, are to be sold by Mr. Graves in St. James's Street; Mr. Lewis under Tom's Coffee-House, Covent-Garden; Mr. Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings; Mrs. Boulter next the Rose Tavern at Temple Bar; Mr. Sanger at the Temple Gate; Mr. Lloyd near the Church in the Temple; Mr. Knapton in St. Paul's Church-Yard; Mr. Round in Exchange Ally, and Mrs. Baldwin in Warwick-lane; where also may be had those for the Months of March, April and May.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Acted but once these Twenty Years.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane on Tuesday next being the 31st day of July will be Reviv'd a Comedy call'd The Volunteers, or the Stock Jobbers. The Part of Blunt by Mr. Cross, Hackwell Mr. Norris, Hackwell jun. Mr. [illegible] Wellad Mr. Mills, Sir Nicholas Dainty Mr. Pack, Sir Timothy Kastril Mr. Bullock, Nickum Mr. Bullock jun. Teresia Mrs. Saunders, Eugenia Mrs. Bracegirdle, Clara Mrs. Porter, Winifred Mrs. Willis, Mrs. Hazard Mrs. Powel.

The Duty on Cocoa Nuts being made double what it was by the last Parliament, Cocoa Nuts are considerably advanced. Mr. Fary gives Notice that he shall sell Chocolate at his usual Rates 'till 8 ber next, viz. Chocolate made of the best Cocoa Nuts 3 s. a pound, Cocoa and Martinico 2 s. 6 d. Ch colate with Sugar 2 s. 6 d. and fine green Tea, tho' far exceeding any Tea of the two Sales, for the common Price. Sold at the Bell in Grace-Church-street near Grace-Church, Druggist.

This Day is Published,

An Historical Geography of the old Testament, in three Volumes. Vol. II. Being a Geographical and Historical Account of the Books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges and Ruth, very useful for understanding the History of the said Books. To which End it is Illustrated with Maps, and there are added Chronological Tables. There are also several Texts occasionally Explained, and the prudent Corrupt Reading of others, particularly Deut. 10. 6, 7. and Exod. 12. 40. Corrected. There are likewise several Curiosities, Natural and Artificial, taken notice of and represented by Copper Cuts. By Edward Wells, D. D. Rector of Cotesbach in Leicestershire. Printed for James Knapton, at the Crown in St. Paul's Church-Yard.

Just Publish'd,

The Writing Grammar, or Orthographical Copy-Book, Containing an Alphabetical and Compleat Sett of Round-hand and Secretary Copies curiously Ingrav'd, and done in a most Usual Character, and fully Instructing Method: and also Practical Tables for true Spelling and dividing Sillables of words in Writing; with Directions of all the Marks of Stops and Pointings. Adapted for the regular (and most easie and advantageous) Teaching and Accomplishing all Youth (of either Sex) whether at School or at Home) in Writing those Useful Hands, and good English. Printed for Charles Rivington at the Bible and Crown in St. Paul's Church-Yard.

Just Publish'd very neat and Correct Editions of the following Books, viz.

The Works of Mr. Francis Beaumont and Mr. John Fletcher, in 7 Vols. 8vo. adorn'd with Cuts. Plutarch's Lives in 5 Vols. translated by several Hands. Seneca's Morals translated by Sir Roger L'Estrange. The Satyrs of Decimus Junius Juvenalis &c. translated into English Verse by Mr. Dryden and several other eminent Hands. The Works of Mr. Congreve in 3 Vols. containing all his Plays and Poems. Poems on several Occasions written by Mr. Prior. Paradise lost, a Poem, in 12 Books, by Mr. John Milton. The Christian Hero, written by Mr. Steele. N. B. The three last are printed with a new Engraver Letter in small Pocket Volumes: All printed for Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over-against Catherine-street in the Strand.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beaufort-Buildings* in the *Strand*.

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